Bombs, Threats Jolt U.S. Cities

Post 3/14/70

Bomb threats in New York City reached the 400 mark yesterday, but there were no further explosions following those that ripped through three Manhattan skyscrapers Thursday morning.

In Pittsburgh, a heavy explosion demolished a jewelry store and shattered windows in 22 other stores in the East Liberty Mall. No injuries were reported.

Two high schools, one in New York and the other in Appleton, Wis., were damaged by bombs and a bomb threat delayed the Los Angeles departure of one of Trans World Airlines' new Boeing 747 jets. Another scare in Washington caused Secretary of State William P. Rogers to evacuate his office briefly.

New York Mayor John V. Lindsay met with fire and police officials as office buildings throughout his city were being emptied by thousands of workers fearful the threat might be real.

Characterizing the bombings as "repulsive and cowardly," the New York Mayor called for "very tough" state and federal legislation to cope with the crisis.

A city official, fearful of mass panic, said the bombings were the work of a small group and not the signal of the start of urban guerrilla warfare.

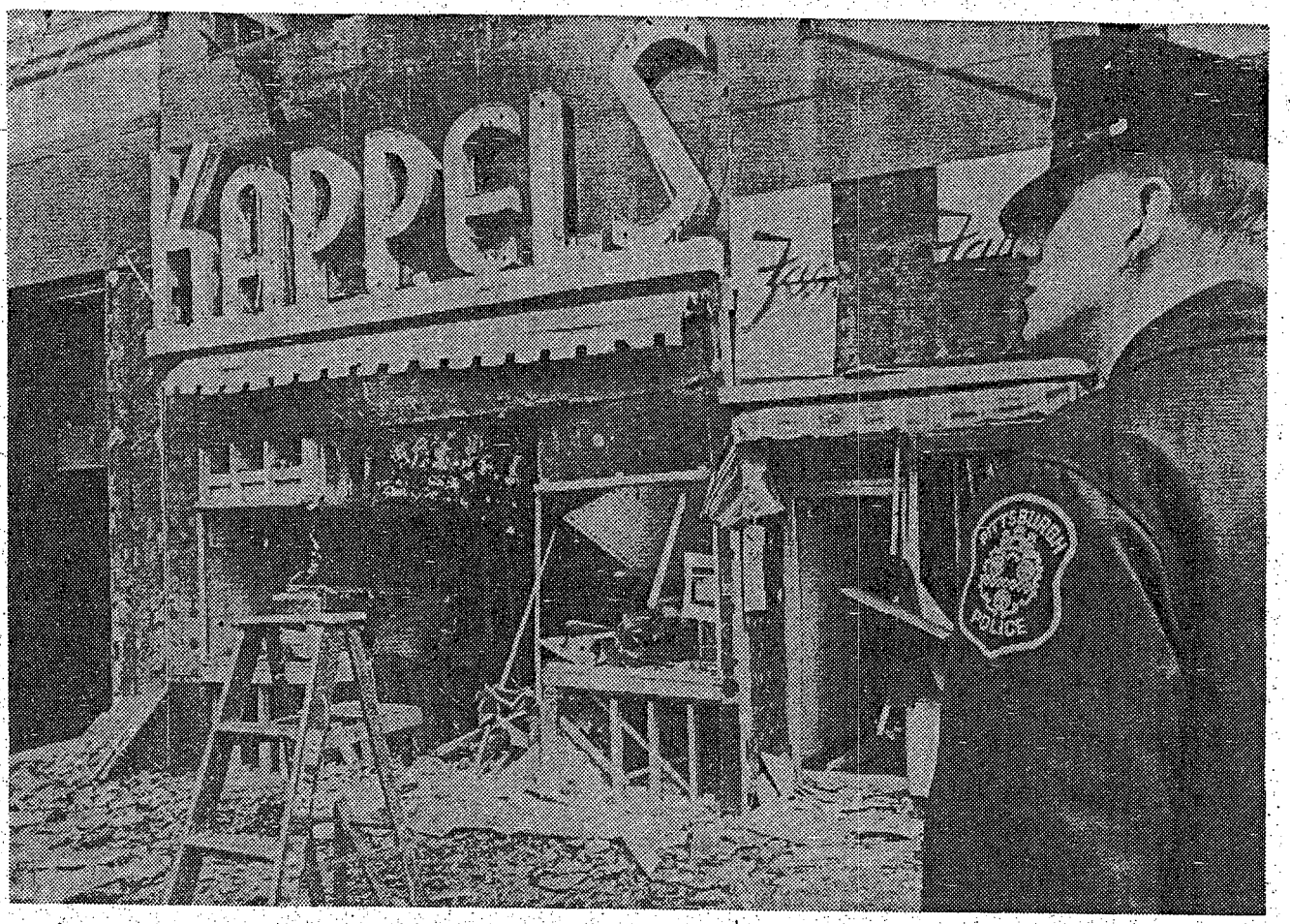
Lindsay said the city has a strict law requiring a license before dynamite can be purchased, but he said he believes explosives are being purchased in rural areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

The city is coping with false bomb threats at a rate of one every six minutes, New York officials reported.

The 50-story General Electric Building, headquarters for the firm, illustrated the headache that has plagued employes and city police bomb squad technicians in the bomb scare crisis.

The GE building contains 1,000 workers in the heart of New York City's bustling East Side. When a bomb threat was telephoned there yesterday, all 1,000 persons had to be evacuated from the 50 floors. Then technicians went in for a floor-by-floor search.

See SCARE, A7, Col. 5



Associated Press

Explosion wrecks stores in Pittsburgh shopping center.

SCARE, From A1

Meanwhile, busy Lexington Avenue was closed to traffic while the search was being conducted.

The villain turned out to be a cleaning device that a nervous tenant mistook for an explosive.

The GE incident was one of 30 in which office buildings had to be evacuated within a 24-hour period. In all, 30,000 persons had to troop out of the skyscrapers while the searches were made in vain for bombs. In addition, six New York courtrooms were emptied yesterday when a caller said a bomb would explode at 11 a.m.

City officials said they have not been able to make an accurate count this year of how many bomb threats have been made, but last year the city reported 2,587 threats, more than double the 1,094 of 1

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plosions destroyed the 21st floor of the Mobil Company building Thursday.

In Chicago, a police car was bombed Thursday, slightly damaging the cruiser. Another was hit by a cherry bomb.

Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio reported bomb scares as did Harrison, N.Y., the headquarters of International Business Machines. IBM was one of the firms whose New York offices were hit by a bomb Thursday.

St. Patrick's Cathedral was also among the New York sites where bomb threats were reported.